

Washington to join Hunter in his crusade. After the ship sank, they endured almost 5 days adrift in shark-infested waters, where two-thirds of their shipmates perished from shark attacks, hunger, thirst, and exposure.

Let us, at long last, understand that justice delayed is justice denied and recognize in a very patriotic fashion the kind of sacrifices that were rendered at that particular time.

□ 1915

The Walt Disney Channel on Sunday has a very special and unique presentation about the *U.S.S. Indianapolis*.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COX of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KLINK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS RE-MEMBERS ARMENIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last year on April 25th, 1997, I attended a remembrance for the 1½ million men, women, and children who were persecuted by the Turkish Ottoman government and who perished during 1915 to 1923. The commemoration, held at the Worcester City Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, honored the 60 survivors of the Armenian Genocide who are still living and residing in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts. I had the privilege of meeting 14 of them, and nothing I can express will ever compare to their words or memories.

In the past year I have had the privilege to meet with many Armenian Americans in discussions not only about Armenia, but also on how to strengthen our communities, our schools, our health care, and the welfare of our children. I have learned a great deal from the Armenian community in central Massachusetts and I hope that they will continue to share with me their views and their insights.

I also had the opportunity to spend a memorable afternoon at the Armenian Youth Federation Summer Camp in Franklin, Massachusetts, also in my district. There I met and spoke with young Armenian Americans who come to this camp from all around the country. It is clear that the sons and daughters of Armenian heritage will continue to speak about their family's history and tragedy, and they will greatly enhance life in America with their spirit, intelligence and humor.

It is as much out of my respect for them, these young people, that I feel privileged to add my voice to today's commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Every year we gather not just to honor and commemorate the victims, but to stand witness and declare that we will never forget this horrific tragedy. What happened during those years was more than just a series of massacres carried out by the Turkish Government during a time of instability, revolution and war. Whole communities were wiped off the face of the map. Over 1½ million men, women, and children were deported, forced into slave labor, tortured and exterminated by the Ottoman Government of Turkey.

It was deliberate. Millions of Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of 3,000 years and eliminated through massacres and exile. It was a carefully executed plan of extermination. It was the first example of genocide in the 20th century, and it was the precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and the other cases of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination that are the nightmares that haunt and characterize our own times.

Unlike Germany, the Government of Turkey, however, has never acknowledged its attempted annihilation of Armenians. Instead, successive Turkish governments have engaged in a global campaign of denial and historical revisionism.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we must remember, why we must always remember. This is why we must speak out, why we must always speak out. To forget history dishonors the victims and the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and it encourages tyrants everywhere to believe that they can kill with impunity.

Over 30 nations, from Australia to Russia to Lebanon, have adopted resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Earlier this month the Senate in Brussels, Belgium, approved a resolution recognizing and commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, as an American and a Member of Congress, I am profoundly angry that the United States of America has yet to recognize the actions taken by the Turkish Government between 1894 and 1923 as acts of genocide against the Armenian people. What other name could we possibly give to actions that reduced the Armenian

population in the Ottoman Empire from 2,500,000 souls at the beginning of World War I to the fewer than 80,000 who remain today inside of Turkey? Yet every year the administration fails to acknowledge that a genocide took place in order to appease our Turkish allies.

As a Member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia, I am a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 55, legislation that honors the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and calls upon the United States Government to recognize the genocide and encourage the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge and commemorate the atrocity carried out against the Armenian people.

As a Member of that caucus, I work with my congressional colleagues to strengthen support and assistance to the people of Armenia; to support the Democratic process and elections recently held in Armenia; and to support and aid the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabagh who must daily confront the hostility and violence of Azerbaijan and the threat of another genocide.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 1,400 Armenian families who reside in my district, I will continue to work and speak on these issues in the 105th Congress. I will continue to honor the memory of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and I will continue to work for the freedom and human rights of Armenians everywhere.

I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), for their leadership on Armenian issues and for coordinating these special orders today.

CRISIS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, April 19th, there appeared on the front page of the Orlando Sentinel, my hometown newspaper, an extraordinary article with an extraordinary insight into the nature and the scope of the problem with public education that we are facing in the United States.

I think that this is an article which should be read by all of our colleagues, and I call it to our colleagues's attention.

I also at this time, so that I do not forget to do it later, although I am going to be referring to this liberally, would like ask that the entire text of this article and the accompanying text of a teacher's diary, an insert on the front page of this newspaper, be introduced into the RECORD following my remarks today.

Mr. Speaker, back a couple of years ago, the Florida legislature passed a law requiring that every student who graduates from high school in the State of Florida had to have a 2.0 average throughout their high school studies. A 2.0 on a four-point scale means a